

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## THE PERILS FACING OUR GRADUATING COLLEGE STUDENTS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, the national unemployment rate hit a 9-year high of 6.4 percent in June. We have lost more than 3.1 million private sector jobs since 2001, which is adversely impacting many of our recent college graduates who are finding it difficult to secure employment in a market that is not producing enough jobs. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released findings that show for this same period that the unemployment rate for 20 to 24 year olds has risen from 7.2 percent to 10.7 percent.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers, which is a nonprofit association that provides resources to help career services and recruitment professionals, conducted a survey this past spring that found "corporate hiring has fallen by 36 percent since 2001; 42 percent of employers say they are cutting the number of college graduates they hire; and nearly 71 percent of Government/nonprofit employers say they expect to hire fewer new college graduates this year." This information is very troubling to me because the state of our economy has restricted unemployment opportunities and exacerbated personal debt for young men and women graduating from college.

As our college graduates look to their future, many of them will already have accrued an excessive amount of debt ranging from student loans to credit cards. I have been working to shed light on this problem which is only getting worse, the problem of economic and personal financial illiteracy among our youth.

Accumulation of credit card debt by college students has become an issue nationwide. Credit cards are easy to get; many students are able to obtain a credit card by simply submitting a copy of their school identification card. They are acquiring and using credit cards at a greater rate than ever before, without completely understanding the credit system and accrued interest. Many of these students are not adequately educated about using and paying off a credit card. Rather, many are being enticed by gimmicks to apply for a credit card. A quick Internet search can reveal dozens of sites that provide myriad of opportunities for students to obtain a credit card. Some of these sites offer credit card limits of up to \$5,000. Others suggest that one could use the card to purchase books, pizza and tuition, and also earn bonus points for free music CDs. Other inducements are offered, such as a free movie ticket for those who have good credit.

With college students finding it harder to seek gainful employment upon graduating, one would hope that they would at least have a greater understanding of how to best manage their personal finances. It would have been

beneficial for these graduates to have learned the essentials of money management and personal finance before leaving college, and even before leaving high school. However, we still have much to do in this area.

According to the 2002 National JumpStart Survey, economic and financial literacy scores have declined since the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy conducted its first survey of seniors in high school back in 1997. Of the high seniors who took the survey, 68.1 percent them failed, demonstrating a clear lack of understanding of the basic fundamentals of economics and personal financial management.

We have also seen an increase in personal bankruptcy filings and, if one were to couple that with the lack of jobs available for graduating students, we see that many of our students are well on the road to financial crisis, if they are not already there. Although the Department of Education has found that the default rate on student loans has decreased substantially, it has found the dollars in default remain high. This means that students defaulting on their loans have a larger debt load, which may cause them to file for bankruptcy before they even begin a career.

In the 2002-2003 fiscal year, American lenders made about \$31 billion in consolidated student loans, averaging about \$27,000 each. Furthermore, 45 percent of college students are in credit card debt, with the average debt being \$3,066. Our students are accruing large amounts of debt without a clear understanding of how to manage their finances. As unemployment continues to rise and the job market remains bleak, we must empower our students with a greater understanding of economic and personal finance. Although improved financial literacy is not the complete solution to their problems, it can help them to alleviate or prevent some of the financial difficulties they may encounter.

As we continue to work towards economic recovery and job creation, it is imperative to also educate our children so that they may understand and excel in economic and personal finance. •

## A TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL BRIGHT

• Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, in this country of unique opportunity and personal liberty, there are people who use their talents and abilities to help others. Many of these men and women go unnoticed or unappreciated in spite of their many selfless deeds.

I rise to honor a native Oklahoman who not only rose to the challenge of God's calling in his life, but was one of the greatest visionaries and faithful servants of our time.

Dr. Bill Bright, a native of Coweta, Oklahoma, experienced something that, to many of us seems surreal: he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse for over 9 years! He graduated

from Oklahoma's Northeastern State University in 1944, where he was known for his keen academic rigor and ability.

Bill married his high school sweetheart, the former Vonetta Zachary, and moved to southern California to begin a successful confections company. Although he could have made a fortune with his small but promising empire, Bill knew that he was called to a higher purpose.

Bill Bright answered that call when he found Campus Crusade for Christ. Known to many for his vigorous passion for spreading the Gospel, it is not difficult to understand why he achieved such international popularity. Today, Campus Crusades for Christ has over 26,000 employees and over 225,000 volunteers spanning 191 countries. His movie, JESUS, a documentary on the life of Jesus Christ, has been viewed by 5.1 billion people, which is roughly 5/6 of the present world population.

Although these are undeniable great accomplishments, a true leader demonstrates by example. And that is Bill Bright. In 1996, Bill was presented with the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, for his work with fasting and prayer. Worth more than 1 million dollars, Bill gave every penny of it to organizations that helped him to win that award—those promoting spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.

My friend Bill Bright demonstrated the qualities of a true spiritual American leader. Considering his roots and his achievements, I venture to say Dr. Bill Bright is the evangelical Horatio Alger story of the last half-century.

Those of us who have been touched by this wonderful man will certainly miss him, but one thing is for sure—Bill Bright's vision and legacy will live on. He has made a positive difference for our state and country and I am certain helped countless individuals find eternal happiness. •

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH AND VIVIAN SAFRANEK

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Joseph and Vivian Safranek for a marriage that has lasted 60 years. It was in 1942 in the town of Iron Mountain, MI that Joseph first offered Vivian a ride home after working at the Pine Mountain ski tournament. She accepted the ride and soon after accepted his marriage proposal. On September 18, 1943 in Kingsford, MI's Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, the two celebrated their union.

After 7 years and two children, Joseph and Vivian decided to make the move to the great State of Wisconsin. The 1950s and 60s were hard times for the Safraneks. They lived in the west side of Milwaukee in a small apartment with no running water. Joseph worked as a route salesman for the Milwaukee Cheese Co. and then at the Continental Baking Co. And even

though money was tight, there was always more than enough good Wisconsin cheese and Wonder bread to go around.

Sixty years is a long time and a lot of memories. Their successful union could be measured in years or even tender moments. But even more impressive a measure is their four wonderful children and seven grandchildren.

A marriage of 60 years is an impressive and rare accomplishment. Today, I express my deepest admiration for the Safraneks—the love, the laughter, the family and the marriage that, while not born in Wisconsin, symbolizes Wisconsin and its values at their best.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CLYDE BROWN

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Mississippi. On June 13, 2003, Clyde Brown of Moss Point, MS was recognized for his long-term efforts to protect the fragile, natural resources of coastal Mississippi by receiving the 2003 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, NOAA, Environmental Hero Award.

Established in 1995 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, the Environmental Hero award honors individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts to preserve and protect our Nation's environment. Mr. Brown is among only 36 winners in the Nation of the 2003 NOAA Environmental Hero Award.

A lifelong resident of eastern Jackson County, MS, Clyde Brown recently retired after nearly 40 years of employment at the International Paper Company and is a part-time oysterman and seafood processor. He has been involved in a number of volunteer efforts that range from serving on citizen advisory councils to establishing the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, NERR.

Mr. Brown has worked with my office and other members of Congress over the years to secure support for a variety of projects including the oyster relay project, establishment of the Grand Bay NERR, expansion of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, a local Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout, disaster relief, and the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, to name a few.

David Ruple, manager of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve said, "Clyde Brown is soft-spoken yet determined in his efforts to conserve and restore the resources of the Mississippi gulf coast. He serves as the pulse of the local community and has been the sounding board for local residents inquiring about Federal and State conservation initiatives over the years. Clyde is a true environmental hero, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with him.

It is citizens such as Mr. Brown whose dedicated efforts and out-

standing accomplishments greatly benefit the environment and make our Nation a better place for all Americans.●

#### SALUTING GEORGE AND LOIS FERNAU AND FUTURES OF AMERICA

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, today I salute George and Lois Fernau of St. Louis, who are the founders of a very talented, very patriotic singing group, the Futures of America.

The Fernaus are parents of four children, and something Mr. Fernau saw on television in the early 70s as he was about to take his daughter to softball practice disturbed him very deeply. He watched as a group of protesters burned the American flag. Mr. Fernau thought this was a slap in the face to those who fought to defend freedom under that flag and a desecration of an enduring symbol of freedom and democracy. He was inspired to do something to express his love for the country, so he asked his daughters after softball practice if they would be willing to be part of a singing group that would tour the country and spread patriotic feeling through music. Thus, the Futures of America were born.

The mission of the Futures of America is to strongly encourage all Americans, but especially young people, to learn what they call the "M.V.P.'s of Life": morals, values, principles and patriotism. They sing classic American songs such as The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Put On a Happy Face, God Bless America, as well as songs written by Mr. Fernau, such as Missouri: Our Home State, St. Louis, My Kind of Town, and You're My Music. They have performed on radio and television, and have also released several albums of their music.

Since their inception in 1971, the Futures of America have kept up an ambitious and impressive schedule, traveling close to a million miles and performing over 2,500 times. They have sung for a number of dignitaries, including two Presidents, an African king, and a host of Missouri's State and local elected officials. They also sing at venues such as Air Force bases, parades, and conventions for groups such as the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, and the Rotary Club. The Futures of America also have the distinction of having performed before all 172 VA hospitals in America, warming the hearts of many veterans.

I commend George and Lois Fernau and the Futures of America for their service to the community over the past 32 years. Their patriotism and strong moral values are a good example for everyone. I am honored to share their accomplishments with my colleagues, and I wish them all the best for the future.●

#### A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL KEVIN B. KUKLOK

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MG Kevin B.

Kuklok, who is about to retire and return to private life after more than 35 years of selfless service to our Nation as a U.S. Marine.

Major General Kuklok graduated from the University of North Dakota, with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. He also received his master's degree in business administration from the United States International University in San Diego, CA. He enrolled in the Platoon Leaders Class program in March 1965, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve in August 1968.

He has served with numerous operational commands in billets ranging from staff officer to Commanding General. Some of these units were Marine Medium Lift Helicopter Squadrons 267 and 367; 2d Battalion, 7th Marines; Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 169; Marine Air Group 46; and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 766.

He was Commanding Officer Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 41, Det B; Commanding Officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764. He also served as Director of Readiness and Safety, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, MARRESFOR, New Orleans, LA.

Upon promotion to brigadier general, he assumed command as the commanding general, Reserve Marine Ground Task Force East, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Major General Kuklok is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served as the commanding general, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Reserve, from September 1997 until August 2000.

In November 2001, General Kuklok was ordered back to active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom, at which time he assumed his current duties as Assistant Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations, his last active duty position.

Throughout his career as a U.S. Marine, Major General Kuklok has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, his Corps, and especially to his marines and their families.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish to recognize Major General Kuklok's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, his wife, Diana, and their two children, Nicole and Bryce, on the completion of a long and distinguished career.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SAGINAW BAY AREA

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great organization from my home State of Michigan. On August 14, 2003, people will gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saginaw Bay Area, Inc. I am pleased to pay tribute